Report

on

World Soil Day 2022

Organized by

EIACP PC

on

Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding

(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)

Coimbatore

World Soil Day 2022 celebrations by IFGTB EIACP PC

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Program Centre on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) organized an awareness campaign on 05.12.2022 to commemorate the World Soil Day 2022. This awareness event on the theme "Soils: where food begins" was also registered in the worldwide events organized by the FAO of the United Nations.

Dr C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB in his special address pointed out that soil is essential for the maintenance of biodiversity above and below the ground. Soil is the basis for sustenance for all living things. It contains millions of organisms including earthworms, nematodes, mites, insects, fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes and preserves clean water and helps to regulate the climate. Fertile soils team with microorganisms, which directly contribute to the biological fertility of that soil. In addition to fertility, soil microorganisms also play essential roles in the nutrient cycle that are fundamentally important to life on the planet, he added.

Dr R. Yasodha, Group Coordinator Research highlighted soil degradation reduces agricultural yields and threatens farmers' livelihoods. Soil that has been leached off its nutrients cannot support crops, or plants that prevent desertification. Healthy soil is essential to ensure a steady supply of food and biodiversity. Soil loss translates into widespread poverty and slower economic development, she added.

Dr Kannan CS Warrier, Scientist F and EIACP Coordinator, in his awareness lecture explained that soil salinization and sodification are major soil degradation processes threatening ecosystem and are recognized as being among the most important problems at a global level for agricultural production, food security and sustainability in arid and semi-arid regions. World Soil Day 2022 and its campaign "Soils: where food begins" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining the soil healthier. Dr Warrier urged that future generations should understand the importance of the soil and contribute towards protecting soil through their actions and behaviours.

An Awareness Quiz on soil was also organized for students and the general public. People from all walks of life have participated and E Certificate was also awarded to all. An awareness poster highlighting the current year’s theme was released during the occasion and disseminated to various schools & the general public in and around the district, its digital copies were shared with all the stakeholders. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, EIACP PC proposed the vote of thanks.


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ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
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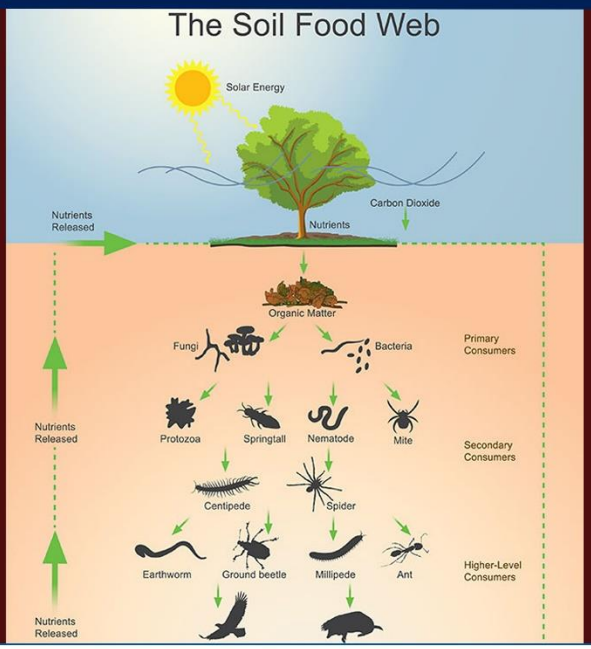
WORLD SOIL DAY 2022

Theme: "Soils: Where food begins"

Healthy soils are the foundation of the food system. Our soils are the basis for agriculture and the medium in which nearly all food-producing plants grow. Healthy soils produce healthy crops that in turn nourish people and animals. Indeed, soil quality is directly linked to food quality and quantity. Soils supply the essential nutrients, water, oxygen and root support that our food-producing plants need to grow and flourish. They also serve as a buffer to protect delicate plant roots from drastic fluctuations in temperature.



How To Make Soil Healthy and Increase Soil Productivity?

Optimize irrigation

Add organic matter and manure

Use cover crops

Practice crop rotation

Plant salt-tolerant crops

Increase soil nutrients